

Please add new claims 38-77, as follows:

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--38. (New) An apparatus for monitoring information on a network, comprising:
a storage device storing a predefined criterion, and having a monitoring
module thereon; and
a processing device executing the monitoring module to transmit at least
one instruction to the network, the at least one instruction requesting a performance of
a monitoring operation to monitor the information on the network as a function of the
predetermined criterion, the processing device is adapted to receive data from the
network based on at least one result of the monitoring operation.

39. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the processing device provides
the at least one result to at least one user.

40. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the information includes at
least one event which is used for detecting a change on the network.

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41. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the information includes at
least one condition.

42. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the information includes at least one event and at least one condition, and wherein the predefined criterion is a rule-based criterion which enables the monitoring operation to monitor for the at least one event on the network and to check if a certain condition of the at least one condition is satisfied.

43. (New) The apparatus according to claim 42,

wherein the rule-based criterion includes:

at least one of a WHEN portion and an IF portion, and

a THEN portion, and

wherein the THEN portion includes a probing action which has at least one probing operator.

44. (New) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the probing operator includes at least one of:

a particular query,

a data mining query, and

a further condition which provides the information based on at least one of the WHEN portion and the IF portion.

45. (New) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the IF portion includes the at least one condition which is complex.

46. (New) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the at least one complex condition includes at least one of:

an atomic condition, and
a combination of atomic conditions.

47. (New) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the atomic condition includes at least one literal portion.

48. (New) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the atomic condition includes at least one binary past temporal operator.

49. (New) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the atomic condition includes at least one unary past temporal operator.

50. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the monitoring operation is performed on a client station.

51. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the processing device performs the monitoring operation.

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52. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the at least one result includes a copy of at least one monitored predicate.

53. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the at least one result includes a copy of a portion of at least one monitored predicate.

54. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the monitoring operation is performed by exploring particular data on client sites which are connected to the network.

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55. (New) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the at least one event includes at least one of:
an atomic event, and
a combination of events.

56. (New) The apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the at least one event is one of an instantaneous event and an event which extends over a period of time.

57. (New) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the WHEN portion is used to monitor for an occurrence of at least one event.

58. (New) A method for monitoring information on a network, comprising:
receiving a predefined criterion;
monitoring the information on the network as a function of the predefined criterion; and
receiving data from the network based on at least one result of the monitoring step.

59. (New) The method according to claim 58, further comprising the step of:
providing the at least one result to at least one user.

60. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the information includes at least one event which is used for detecting a change on the network.

61. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the information includes at least one condition.

62. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the information includes at least one event and at least one condition, and wherein the predefined criterion is a rule-based criterion, and wherein the monitoring step is performed by monitoring for the at least one event on the network and checking if a certain condition of the at least one condition is satisfied.

63. (New) The method according to claim 62,
wherein the rule-based criterion includes:

at least one of a WHEN portion and an IF portion, and
a THEN portion, and

wherein the THEN portion includes a probing action which has at least one probing operator.

64. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the probing operator includes at least one of:

a particular query,
a data mining query, and
a further condition which provides the information based on at least one of the WHEN portion and the IF portion.

65. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the IF portion includes the at least one condition which is complex.

66. (New) The method according to claim 65, wherein the at least one complex condition includes at least one of:

an atomic condition, and
a combination of atomic conditions.

67. (New) The method according to claim 66, wherein the atomic condition includes at least one literal portion.

68. (New) The method according to claim 66, wherein the atomic condition includes at least one binary past temporal operator.

69. (New) The method according to claim 66, wherein the atomic condition includes at least one unary past temporal operator.

70. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the monitoring step is performed on a client station.

71. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the processing device performs the monitoring step.

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72. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the at least one result includes a copy of at least one monitored predicate.

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73. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the at least one result includes a copy of a portion of at least one monitored predicate.

74. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the monitoring step is performed by exploring particular data on client sites which are connected to the network.

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75. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein the at least one event includes at least one of:
an atomic event, and
a combination of events.

76. (New) The method according to claim 75, wherein the at least one event is one of an instantaneous event and an event which extends over a period of time.